

Skatepark Advisory Task Force Meeting #5

Meeting Summary

8/03/2006

Task Force Members Present: *Joe Bell, John Carr, Susanne Friedman, Matt Johnston, Jeanne Krikawa, Joyce Moty, Scott Shinn,*

Task Force Members Absent: *George Blomberg, Jelani Jackson, Christine Larsen, Nin Troung*

Guests: *Catherine Anstett (Parks), Laura Weigel (AJEM)*

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Discuss Weight Calculations (*Laura Weigel*)

Ms. Weigel distributed a “draft” of the weight system and explained how the weights were calculated and applied to each criterion according to the size of each facility. A few members of the Task Force requested that the numbers be analyzed again to confirm that indeed the weight calculations are correct. Ms. Weigel agreed to run the numbers again and Scott Shin offered to look at the calculations as a second set of eyes. Once the numbers are confirmed Ms. Weigel will provide the final weight for each criterion in each category along with an explanation of the method used to obtain the weights.

Up-date on Site Evaluations and Discussion (*Susanne Friedman and Laura Weigel*)

Ms. Friedman and Ms. Weigel explained to the Task Force that they analyzed over 130 sites suggested by the community, Parks, SDOT, and the Port. Each criterion at each site was scored on a scale from 1-10. The weights were then applied to each score resulting in a cumulative score for each site. The sites that ranked in the top 25% out of 100% were put forth as possible site locations.

Twenty-six sites were presented to discuss as potential sites. These 26 sites do not include the already planned or existing skate facilities:

Parks existing – Ballard Commons, SeaSkate (Seattle Center)

Parks planned – Lower Woodland, Jefferson, Dahl Playfield, Crown Hill Elementary (Pro Parks Levy plan on hold due to school closures)

Private Existing – Inner Space, Marginal Way (not private, but not publicly managed)

Private Planned – River City Skatepark, 65th & Roosevelt

Each site within each district was discussed and the Task Force agreed with the potential site list. However, there is a concern that the central area of the city including downtown, Queen Anne, Magnolia, Capital Hill, Belltown, etc...are lacking in potential sites for skate facilities. The community did request that the Task Force find appropriate locations in these areas, however this is difficult due to the lack of park properties and available space in the Downtown and surrounding areas. The small number of parks located in these areas combined with high densities result in heavily programmed parks with very little room available for new facilities. The request was made by a Task Force member to attempt to further identify possible locations in this particular area.

The Task Force also agreed that the final plan should include a recommendation that the Downtown areas be acknowledged as target areas in need of more opportunities for the skate facilities and that as new park properties are acquired and or developed in these areas, skate facilities should be taken into consideration during the planning process.

Community members suggested several schools sites during the first round of public meetings. Ms. Friedman and Ms. Weigel reviewed the suggested sites. However, Seattle School District needs time to assess how they are moving forward with the school closure sites, and those were removed from the draft potential list.

The Task Force asked how Ms. Friedman and Ms. Weigel determined the size facility that would be most appropriate for a particular location. Some locations were suggested to be a specific size so that was taken into consideration. The decision was made based on available space, and uses both adjacent to, and within, the park.

There are a few sites that still need to be visited and some that will be revisited, therefore the list of potential sites may change slightly from the original list presented. The final proposed list of potential sites will be posted on the Seattle Parks website by September 8th, 2006. These potential sites will be discussed with the public at a series of public meetings, which will be held on:

Monday, October, 2nd at Garfield Community Center, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,
Thursday, October 5th at Delridge Community Center, 6:30 – 8:30 pm,
Saturday, October 7th at Northgate Community Center, 1:00 – 3:00 pm,

Strategy for 2nd round of public meetings *(Laura Weigel)*

Due to a lack of time this topic was not discussed.

Update from Task Force members regarding District Council meetings

Other business *(Susanne Friedman)*

Ms. Friedman provided three draft letters in response to citizen's letters written to the Task Force regarding the project. The Task Force agreed that the letters were well structured and responsive and agreed that Parks should send the letters on behalf of the Task Force.